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Title: Need for amicable solution to the problem of increasing the height of Mullaperiyar Dam.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (CANNANORE): Sir, the Mullaperiyar dam was constructed over a century ago and it is supplying water to hectares of land both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has come up with a demand to increase the height of the dam to 152 feet giving little thought to the fact that if this demand is met, the century old dam will not be able to stand the force and is sure to collapse. The devastating effects of such a collapse would be that large areas of land including virgin forest land and thickly populated towns and villages are bound to be submerged. This fact is confirmed by the findings of experts in the field of dam construction.

A study team from Kerala has found that the Government of Tamil Nadu has, in addition to demanding an increase in the height of the dam, also filled the mouth of the spillway with gravel and sand in their effort to prevent water from flowing into Idukki in Kerala. It is also reliably learnt that the Government of Tamil Nadu is bringing in new generators to operate spillway shutters so that surplus water is diverted to Tamil Nadu. Under these circumstances, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the issue is settled amicably. I also request that experts from the Central Water Commission should visit the site immediately and alert the Government of Tamil Nadu about the imminent danger that will be caused by any increase in the present height of the dam.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri T.R. Baalu, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When Matters are raised under Rule 377, other hon. Members are not allowed to speak. This is not `Zero Hour'.

... (Interruptions)

(v) NEED TO SET UP NAGPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND REMOVE